

Service Learning Project
Mt. Spokane High School Biology Class

Project Description

In assessing the needs of the Mt. Spokane community I have noticed that each classroom is equipped with several recycling bins, but they are not labeled with what is supposed to go in them. Many of them, including the ones in our classroom, have random trash and debris inside. For a service learning project, our class can revitalize the school recycling program.

Resources Needed

Index cards and laminating sheets for labeling bins

Task Analysis

- 1) Assess the current recycling program issues. Have students observe the recycling program to assess it's current state and share their observations in class.
- 2) Form a partnership with Nancy Butz, who is currently in charge of the recycling program at Mt. Spokane. Have her come into the class to speak about the current challenges the program is facing
- 3) Have students brainstorm practical ways to improve the program
- 4) As a class, develop specific tasks for groups and assign roles

(Examples: one group could make an informative and entertaining video to educate fellow students about proper recycling methods and broadcast it over the building's TV network. Another group could clean out existing bins and clearly label them for contents. Another group could develop a schedule for emptying bins and work with the special needs classes to find students who could do this each week)

- 5) Have each group write a proposal for their group's contribution to the overall goal. Proposals should include goals, methods, a calendar of events, list of materials, and a list of individual students' duties. Then, review proposals and return them with feedback.
- 6) Set aside time for students to complete their tasks and assist students as they implement their plans
- 7) Have students reflect on their accomplishments with self evaluations then celebrate success with triangle shaped recycling cookies (which will be my contribution). I want to invite Nancy back for the celebration as well. Also, I would like to submit a blurb of recognition for the morning school-wide announcements.

Reflection:

It's important to me to involve the students in developing this plan because they are at the age where they should be practicing how to set goals, develop a protocol for working toward those goals, and then following through. It was also important to me to have a period of reflection and celebration so students can think about the fruits of their labor and see that their actions affect Nancy and that they are gaining praise and recognition from me and the whole school.